

REMARKS

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments, which have greatly
5 assisted Applicant in responding.

Claim Objection.

2. **Claims 2-7, 12, 14-19, and 24.** The Examiner objected to Claims 2-7, 12, 14-19,
10 and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten
in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening
claims.

- Applicant has canceled independent Claims 1, 11, 13, and 23 and amended Claims 2, 12,
15 14, and 24 to incorporate all limitations of such claims, respectively.

Accordingly, Claims 2, 12, 14, and 24 and the respective dependent claims are in condition
for allowance.

20 **35 U.S.C. §102.**

3. **35 U.S.C. §102(e).** Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35
U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aldrich (USPN 6,615,198 B1).

- 25 The rejection of Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 21, and 23-24 is deemed moot in view of Applicant's
remarks regarding Claims 2-7, 12, 14-19, and 24, hereinabove. Claims 1, 11, 13, and 23
are canceled without prejudice and the remaining Claims are in condition for allowance.
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35
U.S.C. §§102(e).

30 **35 U.S.C. §103.**

4. **35 U.S.C. §103(a).** Claims 8-13 and 10-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)
as being unpatentable over Aldrich in view of Karch (USPN 6,442,537 B1).

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The rejection of Claims 8-13 and 10-22 is deemed moot in view of Applicant's remarks regarding Claims Claims 2-7, 12, 14-19, and 24, hereinabove. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

- 5 5. It should be appreciated that Applicant has elected to cancel Claims 1, 11, 13, and 23 without prejudice and to amend Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, and 24 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making such cancellation and amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent. The Examiner is invited to call to discuss the response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1445.

Respectfully Submitted,



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